

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 9 has been amended to clarify the distinguishing features of the present invention. In particular, claim 9 has been amended to clarify that the wire is laid in the laying groove of the wiring board using an automatic laying apparatus, such that the wire is extended from a head of the automatic laying apparatus to a cutter, and to positively recite that the cutter is then operated to cut the wire such that a leader of the wire, including any bent portion thereof, is held in the holding portion of the wiring board.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claim 9 are supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 10, line 16 to page 11, line 28, and that no new matter has been added.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claim 9 be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

In the Final Office Action mailed June 10, 2003, claims 9-11 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the

combination of USP 5,709,564 ("Yamada '564") and USP 5,694,680 ("Yamada '680"). And in the Advisory Action mailed September 10, 2003, the Examiner asserted that the claims failed to recite the exact step of cutting the wire so as to avoid bending and curling of the wire after it has been cut.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that claim 9 has now been amended to clearly recite the steps of: (i) laying a wire in the laying groove of the wiring board using an automatic laying apparatus, such that the wire is extended from a head of the automatic laying apparatus to a cutter, and (ii) operating the cutter to cut the wire such that a leader of the wire, including any bent portion thereof, is held in the holding portion of the wiring board.

Thus, amended claim 9 now more clearly and positively recites the features of the present invention which enable the advantageous effects described in the Response filed August 26, 2003 to be achieved. Namely, claim 9 now clearly recites the steps of laying the wire in the laying groove and operating the cutter to cut the wire such that a leader of the wire, including any bent portion thereof, is held in the holding portion of the wiring board, whereby the wire leader is prevented from either projecting or lifting out of the laying groove.

As explained in detail in the Response filed August 26, 2003, the wire leader is prevented from projecting out of or

being lifted out of the laying groove and the wire leader can be securely held in the holding portion even if it is bent in any direction, without regard to the winding direction of the wire and the direction of attachment of the cutter that is used to cut the wire after the laying operation.

This advantageous feature of the present invention allows the wire to be securely held by the holding portion, regardless of the direction of winding or cutting, in view of the fact that bending or curling of wire during the laying and cutting process may be problematic.

In this regard, it is again respectfully pointed out that the claimed present invention does not contemplate positively bending the wire, as is the case in Yamada '564. Rather, the method of the claimed present invention seeks to avoid the problems caused by a bent or curled wire, whereas Yamada '564 discloses a wiring-circuit forming method in which a wire is positively bent during the wire cutting process.

With respect to Yamada '680, moreover, it is again respectfully pointed out that this reference merely discloses use of an automatic laying apparatus.

Accordingly, it is again respectfully submitted that even if the teachings of Yamada '564 and Yamada '680 were combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the result would merely be a method of: (i) laying a wire along a wire groove using an

automatic laying apparatus (as in Yamada '680), and then
(ii) cutting the wire in a manner such that one or both of cut
end portions of the wire are positively bent (as in Yamada '564).

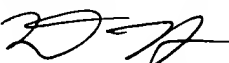
Accordingly, it is again respectfully submitted that the
combination of Yamada '564 and Yamada '680 does not achieve the
method of the claimed present invention - and in fact teaches
away from the method of the claimed present invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that
the method of the present invention as recited in amended claim 9
and claims 10-11 depending therefrom patentably distinguishes
over Yamada '564 and Yamada '680, taken singly or in combination,
under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the
passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or
recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the
undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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